

Leek
District



Staff
Urban
Council.

JOINT REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of Leek,

For the Year 1920.

LEEK :

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LEEK URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In placing before you the report for the year 1920, we have followed the suggestions drawn up by the Ministry of Health.

The Town has a good Water Supply.

No Pollution of rivers or streams has taken place.

The whole of the town is deep sewerred.

The Sewage disposal works are working satisfactorily.

The system in vogue for the disposal of excrement is mainly the water carriage system. There are 69 privies in existance in the district, 30 of which are in positions where no sewers exist.

The removal of House Refuse is accomplished by the public scavengers employed by the Council who make weekly rounds to collect the contents of the movable receptacles, under the direct control and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The 16 existing ashpits are emptied on notice being given to the Sanitary Inspector.

We have just received delivery of two electric vehicles to replace horse vehicles for this work.

The disposal of refuse consists in its being emptied on the "tip" at the sewage farm, and being covered with soil almost as it is tipped. Fish refuse is being destroyed under Factory furnaces by arrangement with the owners of the Factories.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT UNDER ARTICLE XX.

During the year ended December, 1920, the work of the department has been carried out under difficult conditions.

The following cases of Nuisance and other matters complained of were dealt with, comprising :—

	CASES
Defective private drainage	37
Drains tested with smoke	5
Choked Sewers	3
Defective Water-closets	47
Privies converted into Water-closets	0
Accumulation of offensive matter	18
Want of drain ventilation	3
Houses in a filthy condition	5
Nuisances arising from overcrowding	113
Defective Water Spouting	43
Defective roofs	11
Want of proper receptacle for stable manure	2
Want of proper paving in private yards attached to dwelling-houses	19
Want of proper movable receptacles for ashes	168
Number of houses disinfected	125
Number of schools disinfected	5
Number of infected articles, bedding, etc., disinfected	2724

A considerable number of nuisances were promptly abated on their being intimated to the persons responsible.

It was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices.

REMOVAL OF ASHES AND NIGHTSOIL.—The Scavenging Department removed 3,936 loads of ashes and house

garbage, 37 loads of excreta, and 60 loads of shop paper.

RAG FLOCK ACT.—All the upholsterers and cabinet makers in the district buy their flocks under guarantee from the manufacturers that the provisions of the Rag-Flock Act, 1911, have been carried out.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—There are 3 houses registered under the Common Lodging-houses Acts for the reception of 74 casual lodgers.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 7 premises situate at various points in the town licensed for occupation as Slaughter-houses. The desirability of one central Slaughter-house for the district has been very apparent during the past 4 years.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 21 Bakehouses within the district, all of which were inspected half-yearly, and at other times as occasion required.

PETROLEUM STORES.—There are 14 Licenses in force for the keeping and sale of Petroleum that flashes under 73 degrees Fahrenheit's thermometer (1 for 3,000 gallons; 1 for 2,000 gallons; 2 for 250 gallons; 10 for 100 gallons); and 1 for the keeping and sale of Calcium Carbide. There are also 2 private storehouses for the keeping of Petroleum under the Home Secretary's order.

GAS SUPPLY.—The purity of the Gas supplied to the town was tested from time to time in the manner required by the 34th and 35th Vic., chap. 41. No impurity arising from the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen was shown by the test made at the Town Hall.

INTERMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN.—No Interment took place in the Burial Grounds attached to St. Edward's

Church and three in the ground attached to Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel.

The provisions of the Orders in Council relating thereto were duly observed.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.—During the year ending December, 1920, no Canal Boats were inspected within the Urban Sanitary District of Leek.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885.—There are 44 persons registered under the above Order, 20 are Milk Shops, and the remainder Dairies and Cow-sheds. There are 163 milch cows kept. All the said premises were inspected once during the year.

SCABIES.—To combat the outbreak of Scabies (chiefly amongst children of School age) which we experience, I give out free a solution for painting same which is effective.

OVERCROWDING.—This has been very difficult to grapple with owing to the shortage of houses.

FRANK GREEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.—We have no underground sleeping rooms in the district.

SCHOOL DISINFECTION.—I am of opinion that regular and systematic disinfection of all the various schools in the district (whether elementary or otherwise) would be beneficial and greatly assist in combating zymotic diseases.

MILL DISINFECTION.—In December, 1918, the Sanitary Inspector circularised the whole of the Manufacturers relative to the proper disinfection of Factories and

Workshops, with the result that a number are now procuring their disinfecting fluids of a proper coefficient through the Sanitary Department. It will be beneficial both to the Manufacturers of the Town and the Sanitary Department if the whole of the Manufacturers will see their way to adopt the scheme.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk produced or sold in the town is generally of a good wholesome quality.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The food supply of the town is generally good.

No public Abattoir exists in the district, the Sanitary Inspector inspects meat at one or other of the 6 licensed slaughter-houses and 1 Registered slaughter-house, lying at various points of the town. The number of carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned for tuberculosis was five. A Public Abattoir is a necessity for the town situate as Leek is.

A point on which any special comment is necessary is *"the lack of power for Inspector to require English meat slaughtered in any premises outside his own district to be submitted for inspection before exposing the same for sale."* To best carry out the needs of a town situate as Leek is in the centre of a large agricultural district, *it is absolutely essential that our Inspector if he has reason to believe that any beast has been slaughtered on account of sickness, etc., and is intended for food within the town, should have power to go and examine such animal at the place of slaughter, even though it be outside his district, if the same is to be prevented from being sold for human consumption within our district.*

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

Milk has been supplied in cases where I thought it desirable.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year 1920 was 431 which is 157 above the average for the preceding five years, yielding a rate of 25·3 per 1000. There were 19 still births during the year.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year 1920 was 205 which is 43 less than the previous five years average, and yields a corrected death rate of 12·0 per 100.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Zymotic Class.—The Zymotic Class of Diseases was responsible during 1920 for 5 deaths (the average for the preceding 10 years being 21·7) of these 1 each was due to Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas, and 2 to Diphtheria and Croup.

In all cases of infectious disease the premises have been promptly inspected, and careful investigation made to discover the source of infection, any sanitary defects discovered being remedied forthwith.

The local milk supply was free from suspicion in every instance.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 63 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

Diphtheria.—During the year, 20 cases of Diphtheria were notified resulting in 2 deaths. Every case was removed to our Isolation Hospital.

We keep a stock of Antitoxin for free distribution at the Sanitary Office, available for the use of Doctors

for the cure and prevention of Diphtheria among the poor.

Influenza.—During the year Influenza was responsible for no deaths. Propaganda work has been continuously carried on respecting this disease.

Phthisis.—During the year, 42 cases of Pulmonary Phthisis were notified and 13 deaths have occurred from the disease.

Warnings and instructions with regard to spitting have been issued, and spitting flasks and a regular supply of disinfectants were provided for patients.

Disinfection of premises is carried out in every case after death occurs.

The Sanitary Inspector undertakes the erection, supervision, and taking down of Shelters for the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The mortality for the year shows a decrease, the rate being 95·1 per 1000 Births as compared with 98·3 for the preceding 5 year.

The Council have appointed Dr. T. J. Vick as Medical Officer to the Child's Welfare Centre.

To the Medical Officer of Health to the Leek Urban District.

There have been 442 notifications of births during the year 1920. Four of these were twins making a total of 446 births. Of these, nineteen were still-born; and nine it was unnecessary to visit.

Of the remaining 418 Infants, 190 were breast fed, 116 both breast and bottle fed, and 105 entirely bottle

fed. Seven died before any regular method of feeding was adopted.

The Mothers of eighty-four of these Infants returned to their work in the Mills at the end of the first or second month, giving their babies out to nurses, who, for the most part, are of a more intelligent type than the old women nurses of former days.

There have been nine cases of Ophthalmia amongst the babies born this year. These have been visited three or four times daily, with a perfectly satisfactory result in each case. In all cases the eyes are carefully noticed at my first visit, treatment being given on the slightest sign of a suspicious nature, with the full concurrence of all the medical men of the district.

The supervision of children from one to five years is carried on as previously. Advice as to clothing, diet, fresh air, etc., has been given, and in needful cases special treatment suggested, and, where necessary medical attention recommended. Far too many children are sent to school at the age of four and even three years.

The number of Visits made are as follows:—

	Number of	
	Child- ren	Visits
Infants born in 1920 	418	2805
Children born previous year and under 5 years ...	876	6454
	1294	9259

L. HALL.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. Staff—Dr. J. Mountfort Johnson, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Frank Green, Sanitary Inspector, (Tel. 36.) Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, 1902, Officer appointed to carry out Provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Acts.

Dr. T. V. Vick, Medical Officer of Child Welfare Centre.

Nurse L. Hall, Health Visitor (particularly in regard to Child Welfare Work.)

2. Hospital Accommodation.

LEEK URBAN DISTRICT ISOLATION HOSPITAL (Tel. 63.)

Matron: Miss M. Garner.

Situate Ashbourne Road, in Leek Urban Area. 18 beds, 3 diseases can be treated concurrently.

Number of Patients in Hospital, January 1st, 1920 ...	13
do. do. admitted during year *	103
do. do. discharged ,,	104
do. do. died ,,	3
do. do. in Hospital, December, 31st, 1920	9

* Including 18 cases of Diphtheria, admitted from the Leek Rural District, and 6 cases of Diphtheria from the Cheadle Rural District.

No Phthisis Sanatorium nor Hospital Accommodation is provided for this disease.

Smallpox Hospital accommodation is provided at the North Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital Boards' hospital situate at Bagnall.

3. Leek Improvement Act, 1855.

4. We continue to use and appreciate the facilities given by the County Council for the bacteriological examination in cases of suspected Diphtheria and Phthisis.

Any services we have been able to render in matters affecting health in connection with various local institutions we have willingly rendered.

STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED BY ARTICLE V OF THE HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(1) The need for more houses for the working classes is still very apparent, and causing much unrest in the district.

(2) (a) The extent of Shortage of Houses, 250

(b) The erection of the proposed Council Houses commenced, fifty were promised for December, 1920, but none were ready, 12 may be ready by end of March, 1921.

Owing to the enormous delay in the housing, 12 Wooden Huts are in course of erection.

II. OVERCROWDING.

(1) There were 113 houses overcrowded. There were 100 houses in addition containing two or more families.

(2) The cause was the inability to obtain a house.

(3) The erection of more houses is the only remedy for these conditions.

The selection of tenants for the wooden huts have all been made from the people they were intended for.

The first selection of tenants for the type B houses in our opinion (as Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector) contain a number who when housed will not have any bearing on the unhealthy conditions we have for the past 10 years complained of.

The rents of the houses 14/- per week and 12/- per week plus rates are too high to allow the people the houses are intended for to occupy them. *The highest rent these people can afford is 10/- to 11/- per week inclusive of rates.*

We consider good houses built in rows, containing 3 bedrooms, good living room, scullery, and bathroom, with outside convenience, and garden land in close proximity would better meet the need than the present houses.

We again repeat what we stated last year. The tenants of the overcrowded houses, and the sub-tenants of houses where two or more families live in a house, should be given the first refusal of the tenancy of the new houses when they are available. If the overcrowded cases are dealt with first, *according to their degree of overcrowding*, each house so let will leave a small house vacant for occupation by a small family.

(4) It is impossible to remedy overcrowding *unless the Council let the houses to the people we proved the need of the scheme for, and to no others until these cases are met.*

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) (a) The general standard of the houses in the district is good.

(b) The general character of the defects found in houses are want of repairs.

(2) (a) Action has been taken under the Public Health Acts in regard to want of repairs

(b) The Health Committee decided the 87 houses unfit for human habitation must stand over until houses are obtainable for the tenants. *The 87 houses are allowed for in the proposed housing scheme.*

(3) The town's water is supplied to all houses in area at a charge of 2d. in £ for all domestic purposes.

(iv) We have no unhealthy areas under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

(v) The byelaws relating to houses let in Lodgings are working satisfactorily.

(vi) Every effort is being made by the Health Committee and the Housing Committee to push on with the erection of houses as early as possible, but unless the tenants are selected from the people the houses are intended for, viz., the overcrowded, the two or more families in a house, and the occupants of the condemned houses, the scheme will not be meeting the need for which it was intended.

APPENDICES (HOUSING CONDITIONS) FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	17257
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	12·0
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	·75
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	95·1
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes..				3885
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses				3447
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	1

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	346
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	87
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	87
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	152
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under sections 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, &c., 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	0
(a)	by owners... ..	
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	0
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—			
(a)	by owners	...	...	0
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners			0
C. <i>Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.</i>				
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders			87
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...		0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...			0
(5)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...		0

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to improvement under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890	0
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4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 1

5.—The Sanitary Inspector, was appointed in 1909 to carry out the duties under the Housing and Town Planning Act, and has carried out the same conscientiously and impartially. No extra remuneration has ever been made to him for the responsible duties involved.

“TABLE I.”—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1920, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Mean Age at Death: Year 1920, Males, 41·5 years; Females, 50·5; Persons, 45·8.

YEAR	Estimated Population			Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.		
	to middle of each year,	Register General's for		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.		Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	
I				3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1915	16084	17202	17202	327	327	19·0	269	15·5	10	9	32	97·8	268 15·5
1916	17016	18753	17236	314	302	16·1	274	15·8	18	8	28	92·7	264 15·3
1917	17061	17760	15932	273	270	15·2	240	15·0	15	0	28	103·7	225 14·1
1918	17072	17433	15559	231	227	13·0	248	14·2	18	7	20	88·1	239 15·3
1919	17006	17043	16361	243	247	14·4	260	16·5	33	17	27	109·3	244 14·9
1920	17153	17013	17013	432	431	25·3	217	12·5	22	10	41	95·1	205 12·0

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	} 1460.	Total population at all ages ... 16665	} At Census of 1911.
			
			

"TABLE II."
 CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
 THE YEAR 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.							Cases removed to Leek Isola- tion Hospital.	
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup							20	20
Erysipelas							9	
Scarlet Fever							63	59
Puerperal Fever							1	
Phthisis	(a) Under Tuberculosis Regu- lations, 1908						42	
	(b) Ditto 1911							
	(c) Others						7	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum							13	
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis							1	
*Malaria							2	
Totals							158	79

* Discharged soldiers.

"TABLE III."
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1920.

1	Enteric Fever	0
2	Small Pox	0
3	Measles	0
4	Scarlet Fever	1
5	Whooping Cough	1
6	Diphtheria and Croup	2
7	Influenza	0
8	Erysipelas	1
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13
10	Tubercular Meningitis	0
11	Other Tubercular Diseases	2
12	Cancer. Malignant Diseases	20
13	Rheumatic Fever	1
14	Meningitis	0
15	Organic Heart Disease	25
16	Bronchitis	19
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	11
18	Other Respiratory Diseases	1
19	Diarrhœa, &c. (under two years)	4
20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	1
21A	Alcoholism	0
22	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6
23	Puerperal Fever	1
24	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	1
25	Congenital Debility, etc.	26
26	Violence, apart from suicide	6
27	Suicide	1
28	Other Defined Diseases... ..	61
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	0
Total		205

"TABLE IV."
INFANT MORTALITY.

1920. Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-5 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES—Certified	10	9	5	2	26	4	4	4	3	41
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	1
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	4
Brain Disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Enteritis ... ..	...	2	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
Jaundice ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Spina Bifida ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	..	1
{ Premature Birth	7	4	...	...	11	1	1	...	...	13
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	3	3	3	...	9	1	1	...	...	11
	10	9	5	2	26	4	4	4	3	41

Net Births in the year { Legitimate 401.
 { Illegitimate 30. Percentage of Illegitimate Births, 7'4.

Net Deaths in the year of { Legitimate infants 38.
 { Illegitimate infants 3.

REPORT ON FACTORY & WORKSHOP ADMINISTRATION, 1920.

1.—INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR OR
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCE.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ...	43	12	...
Workshops (Including Workshops Laundries)	52	15	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises mentioned in Part 3 of this report)	18	...	...
	113	27	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	..	...	..
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	..
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Sanitary Accommodation :—</i>				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective	4	4	..	...
Not Separate for Sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	12	12	...	...

3.—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											
NATURE OF WORK. *	Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Prosecutions.		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.	
	Sending twice in the Year.			Sending once in the Year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.		
	Lists.	Con-tractors	Work-men.	Lists.	Con-tractors	Work-men.					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Wearing Apparel— (1) Making, &c ... (2) Cleaning & washing	6	...	232	...	...	...	...

3.—HOME WORK, *continued.*

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.				OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.			
Instances (12)	Notices served.	Prosecutions. (13)	Instances. (14)	Orders made (S. 110.) (15)	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110). (16)		
...
...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
1	2
Dressmakers, Tailors, Milliners, and Hosiery Establishments...	70
Bakehouses	21
Cabinet Makers, Joiners, Carriage Builders, Wheelwrights, and Woodcarvers	29
Boot, Shoe, and Clog Repairers	16
Blacksmiths, Cycle Repairers, Tinsmiths and Plumbers ...	19
Saddlers, Coopers, Painters, Sculptors, Timber Yards ...	7
Basket Makers, Rope Walks, Whiplash Making	4
Cardboard Box Making, Silk Balling, Silk Warehouses...	20
Trimming Warehouse, Fire Lighting Shop... ..	2
Doll Factory	1
Total Number of Workshops in Leek	189

One Underground Bakehouse in use at end of year

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS. (1)	NUMBER. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) ... ..	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector, remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {	5
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	...
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	5
Other ... ..	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year... ..	...
In use at the end of the year	1

J. MOUNTFORT JOHNSON, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

